

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended): An apparatus for collecting ~~mixtures of solid and liquid waste materials~~ a volume of hardening concrete washout material from a vehicle, comprising:

a portable, constructed container having first and second opposite ends and a plurality of constructed walls with inner wall surfaces and a substantially open and uncovered top configured for receiving a volume of liquid and solid waste materials;

a volume of concrete washout material in a hardening condition located within the portable, constructed container;

means for preventing ~~hardening materials~~ the volume of concrete washout material when hardened into a substantially hardened condition from substantially adhering to said inner ~~[[walls]]~~ wall surfaces of said portable, constructed container;

a pair of vehicle ramps coupled to a first end of said portable, constructed container;
[[and]]

wherein said vehicle ramps are configured to provide an inclined plane of sufficient strength to support a vehicle driving up said vehicle ramps to said portable, constructed container for emptying and washing out solid waste materials ~~the volume of concrete washout material~~ from said vehicle into said portable, constructed container; and

wherein the portable, constructed container is configured for receiving the volume of concrete washout material from the vehicle driven up onto the vehicle ramps and through the substantially open and uncovered top.

8. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 7, further comprising:

a door coupled to a second end of said container and configured for sealing the second end of said portable, constructed container to allow retention of the volume of concrete washout material in the hardening condition ~~solid and liquid waste materials~~, until said door is opened for emptying said volume of concrete washout material ~~waste materials~~.

9. (previously presented): An apparatus as recited in claim 7, further comprising means for articulating said vehicle ramps between an extended position configured to operate as an inclined plane during use and a non-extended position.

10. (previously presented): An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said means for articulating comprises a hinge assembly on each vehicle ramp allowing at least a portion of said ramp to be moved between extended and non-extended positions.

11. (currently amended): An apparatus for collecting ~~mixtures of solid and liquid waste materials~~ a volume of hardening concrete washout material from a vehicle, comprising:

a portable, constructed container having a plurality of constructed walls with inner wall surfaces ~~configured for receiving a volume of liquid and solid waste materials~~;

a volume of concrete washout material in a hardening condition located within the portable, constructed container;

means for preventing ~~hardening materials~~ the volume of concrete washout material when hardened into a substantially hardened condition from substantially adhering to said inner ~~[[walls]]~~ wall surfaces of said portable, constructed container;

said portable, constructed container having a bottom wall and a substantially open and uncovered top;

a pair of skids attached to the bottom wall of said portable, constructed container;

wherein said skids are configured for supporting said portable, constructed container in an upright position above the ground during use; and

wherein said skids are configured for guiding said portable, constructed container during loading or unloading of said portable, constructed container from a transport vehicle.

12. (currently amended): An apparatus for collecting ~~[[waste]]~~ a volume of hardening concrete washout material from a vehicle, comprising:

a portable, constructed container having a plurality of constructed walls with inner wall surfaces lined with a material to which a volume of substantially hardened concrete will not substantially adhere, and also with a plurality of ends and sides and a substantially open and uncovered top;

a volume of concrete washout material in a hardening condition located within the portable, constructed container; and

a pair of vehicle ramps coupled to one end, or side, of said portable, constructed container and configured for a vehicle driven up onto the ramps to dispose of the volume of concrete washout material in the hardening condition into the portable, constructed container through the substantially open and uncovered top.

13. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said material comprises a coating which is resistant to the adherence of the volume of hardening concrete washout material when substantially hardened within the portable, constructed container.

14. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said material comprises a solid material which is resistant to the adherence of the volume of hardening concrete washout material when substantially hardened within the portable, constructed container.

15. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said material [[is]] comprises a polymeric material.

16. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 12:
further comprising hinges coupling said vehicle ramps to said portable, constructed container; and

wherein said ramps [[may]] are configured to be rotated on said hinges between an extended position allowing said ramps to be driven over by wheels of a vehicle, and a non-extended position.

17. (previously presented): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, further comprising means for urging said ramps into a retracted or extended position.

18. (previously presented): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, further comprising at least one wheel stop coupled to said ramps for limiting upward vehicle travel on said ramps.

19. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 12:
wherein said portable, constructed container [[has]] comprises a bottom; and
further comprising a pair of stabilizer skids attached to the bottom of said portable, constructed container.

20. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

a door enclosing an opening on one end or side of said portable, constructed container.

21. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein said door encloses substantially an entire end or side of said portable, constructed container and is configured to allow emptying said portable, constructed container of ~~[[solidified]]~~ said volume of concrete waste materials washout material in the substantially hardened condition without being constricted on passage through said door.

22. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein said vehicle ramps are not attached to said end or side of said portable, constructed container enclosed by said door.

23. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 20, further comprising a watertight seal configured for retention under pressure between said door and an opening in said portable, constructed container to form a water-tight seal which allows retaining liquid the volume of concrete ~~[[waste]]~~ washout material in the hardening condition within said portable, constructed container without substantial leakage.

24. (currently amended): An apparatus for collecting a volume of hardening concrete waste and washout material from a vehicle, comprising:

a portable, constructed container with a plurality of constructed walls that define a bottom wall, a substantially open and uncovered top, and a plurality of side walls and ends configured for watertight retention of received concrete waste and washout material;

a volume of concrete washout material in a hardening condition located within the portable, constructed container;

a plurality of inner wall surfaces within said portable, constructed container which are lined with a material to which hardened the volume of concrete washout material when hardened into a substantially hardened condition within the container will not substantially adhere;

a pair of vehicle ramps coupled to a side or end of said portable, constructed container;
and

wherein a door coupled to a side or end of said portable, constructed container comprises a door.

25. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

~~wherein said container has a bottom; and~~

~~further comprising:~~ a pair of stabilizer skids attached to the bottom wall of said portable, constructed container for supporting said portable, constructed container in an upright position when in use.

26. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 25, wherein said skids are configured for guiding said portable, constructed container onto or off of a truck adapted for transporting said portable, constructed container.

27. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said vehicle ramps are configured as inclined planes of sufficient strength to allow wheels of a vehicle to be driven over said vehicle ramps when positioning said vehicle for unloading ~~waste concrete and washing out concrete remnants~~ the volume of concrete washout material in the hardening condition into said portable, constructed container.

28. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 27, wherein said vehicle ramps ~~[[may]]~~ are configured to be moved from a fully extended position for use as inclined planes to a storage position in which the ramps are not fully extended.

29. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 28, further comprising:
a hinge on each of said vehicle ramps; and
wherein said hinge is configured for rotating a portion of said ramps between an extended position and a retracted position.

30. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said vehicle ramps and said door are not positioned on the same side or end of said portable, constructed container.

31. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein said vehicle ramps and said door are positioned on opposite ends of said portable, constructed container.

32. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, further comprising:
a seal configured for providing a water-tight seal between said door and an opening of said portable, constructed container being covered by said door for the retention of the volume of concrete waste and washout materials material in the hardening condition within said portable, constructed container when said door is retained in a closed position; and

a door latch attached between said door and said portable, constructed container for retaining said door in a closed position for retaining ~~solid and liquid~~ the volume of concrete ~~[[waste]]~~ washout material in the hardening condition and allowing said door to be opened for the removal of ~~[[solid]]~~ the volume of concrete waste materials washout material in the substantially hardened condition from the portable, constructed container.

33. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said door encloses an entire end or side of said portable, constructed container and is configured to allow emptying said portable, constructed container of the volume of concrete waste materials washout material in the substantially hardened condition without constriction through said door.

34. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24:
further comprising a slope on a top portion of said portable, constructed container adjacent to said vehicle ramps; and
wherein said slope increases a vertical clearance available for vehicles driving on said vehicle ramps for positioning over said portable, constructed container.

35. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, further comprising a flexible skirt retained on an upper portion of said portable, constructed container and configured for reducing splashing of the volume of concrete ~~[[waste]]~~ washout material in the hardening condition during ~~[[the]]~~ a washout process from the vehicle.

36. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said portable, constructed container is configured for retaining the volume that is multiple cubic yards of the concrete washout material ~~[[waste]]~~.

37. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said portable, constructed container is of steel construction.

38. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said portable, constructed container has a rectangular cross-section with rounded interior corners.

39. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said portable, constructed container has a semi-circular cross-section.

40. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said lining on said inner wall surfaces comprises a coating which is resistant to the adherence of the volume of hardening concrete washout material when hardened into the substantially hardened condition within the portable, constructed container.

41. (currently amended): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said material comprises a solid material which is resistant to the adherence of the volume of hardening concrete washout material when hardened into the substantially hardened condition within the portable, constructed container.

42. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said lining comprises a polymeric material.

Appl. No.: 10/774,012
Amdt. Dated: 05/26/2006
Off. Act. Dated: 11/30/2005

Claims 43-48 (canceled)